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A NARROW ESCAPE.

As a matter of unpublished history, nothing has come to light recently of greater interest than the draft of the message which President Lincoln proposed to issue two months before the close of the war. The message was dated Feb. 5, 1865, and was intended to bring the war to an end by paying for the slaves. It recommended Congress to authorize the payment of $400,000,000 to the Southern States, to be distributed among them *pro rata* according to their slave population, on condition that the rebels should lay down their arms and all resistance to the national authority should cease before the 1st day of April, then next ensuing. As a further condition of peace all political offenses were to be pardoned and all property, except slaves, liable to confiscation or forfeiture was to be released therefrom. At this time slavery had been abolished, so far as the national government could do it. The proclamation of emancipation of all slaves in the rebellious States was issued Jan. 1, 1863. On Jan. 31, 1865, the final vote was taken in Congress submitting the thirteenth amendment to the States for their approval, and its ratification was practically assured. This amendment forever abolished slavery within the United States. This was the situation two months before the surrender of Lee, when President Lincoln submitted to his Cabinet this plan of securing peace by paying for the slaves and extending general amnesty to the rebels.

Regarding this proposition, it must be said that while it was exceedingly creditable to Mr. Lincoln's magnanimity and furnished the highest proof of his desire to bring the war to an end, it was not so creditable to his sagacity nor to his appreciation of the temper and spirit of the people of the North. The war had then been in progress nearly four years. It had been prosecuted at a fearful cost, and it is not surprising that President Lincoln should shrink from the responsibility of continuing it if he could by any possible means secure an honorable peace. His proposed offer of $400,000,000 was based on an estimate of the daily cost of the war, that sum being supposed to represent the cost for two hundred days, or about six months. Assuming that the war might last even longer than that, the adoption of this plan would still result in a large saving of money, not to speak of the saving of human life and suffering. These considerations must be taken into account, and it is evident that Mr. Lincoln had weighed them carefully. On the other hand, it was reasonably plain, at that time, that the end of the rebellion was near at hand. Grant had it by the throat, and was tightening his grip every day. The resources of the South were exhausted, while those of the North were not. The Confederacy was on its last legs, while the spirit of the North was unbroken and determined as ever. Slavery was practically abolished. The Northern people felt that the armies then in the field were able to suppress the rebellion. They wanted peace, but only on the condition of unconditional surrender by the rebels and the complete re-establishment of the national authority, without any enforced concessions by the government. Mr. Lincoln's plan does not seem to have recognized these latter conditions.

He showed great wisdom in submitting the proposition to his Cabinet and in yielding to their judgment in the matter. They opposed it unanimously, and so decidedly that Mr. Lincoln dropped it. Undoubtedly it was well he did. If the message had been sent to Congress without consultation it would have caused a disruption of his Cabinet, which at that time would have been a grave disaster. Whether sent with or without the approval of his Cabinet, it would have excited a storm of opposition in Congress, in the press and among the people. It would have been approved by the Democratic party, which was always for peace on any terms, but it would have been bitterly denounced by the great mass of the loyal people of the North, and by the army. It would not have passed Congress, but would have encouraged the rebels, and tended to prolong the war, which was then nearing its end. The North would infinitely have preferred spending $400,000,000 more, or twice that sum, in prosecuting the war to an end rather than pay it to rebels for slaves who were already free. The proposed plan did the greatest possible credit to Mr. Lincoln's magnanimity, but it was not a wise one. The sending of the message to Congress would have been a great mistake. The collapse of the rebellion was at hand, and events were culminating rapidly to the closing scenes. Two months after the date of the proposed proclamation Lee surrendered, and the other rebel armies followed in quick succession. Lincoln's assassination occurred a little more than two months after the Cabinet meeting at which his proposition was considered and rejected. The war came to an end much within the period named in his proposed proclamation. The publication even now shows what a narrow escape Mr. Lincoln had from committing a great blunder.

SCIENCE AND COOKERY.

Of cookery books there is no end; innumerable are the collections of recipes showing how to bake, and broil, and stew, and prepare all manner of savery viands. There are also treatises upon the chemistry of cooking and the relation of the character of food to nutrition; but no scientist has heretofore given his attention to cooking as an art by treating of the effect of different degrees of heat upon specific articles of food, in adapting them to the processes of nutrition. It has remained for Edward Atkinson, the versatile statistician, scientist and social economist, to turn his mind to the practical consideration of this question. Gentlemen of his standing, when dealing with the application of special knowledge to every-day life, usually content themselves with advancing theories and leaving others to test them. Not so with Mr. Atkinson. Having had his attention called to the loss of some of the best elements of food, in the ordinary methods of preparation, the waste of heat and the excess of labor involved, he set about the task of providing an actual remedy. This he has furnished in the shape of a substitute for a stove, which he calls a cooker. He bases its construction on the principle that any kind of tough meat may be reduced to a tender condition by long application of heat at 180 or 200 degrees, without loss of flavor or nutritious qualities, if cooked in a vessel substantially air-tight, and that most meats and grains are most nutritiously cooked at less than the boiling point. His cooker, which is a very simple contrivance, consists of a tight metal box inclosed in another, with a packed wall of wood pulp, which is a non-conductor of heat, an air chamber being between the two boxes. The heat is derived from an oil lamp, the fumes from which do not enter the inner chamber, but conveys the heat by means of an intermediate vessel of water. The food is placed in the inner box, the lamp lighted and the contrivance left to itself, while the cook goes off about his business. It needs no watching, nothing can burn, and, given time enough, which is considerably more than that required in ordinary methods, the meats, vegetables and puddings will come from the box delightful in flavor, and, what is rather difficult of belief, with the flavors unmixed, although all have been inclosed together. The inventor points out that, with this cooker, there is, in addition to the improved quality of the food, a saving of labor, since no constant bending over the stove is required, a saving of fuel, and no overheating of kitchen or cook. So interested is he in the theory that he has also invented an oven for baking bread, a contrivance much like the other, except that no vessel of water is used to carry the heat. He remarks ingenuously, that he devoted two evenings to learning how to make bread, and baked his loaves over the evening lamp which lighted his library table while he read the evening paper. Mr. Atkinson complains that, although his inventions have been before the world for some time, no manufacturer will take them up, for the reason that no patents are on them, and being now only made when ordered, are expensive and not within the reach of the poorer people, for whom they were primarily intended. In short-sighted philanthropy he refrained from taking out a patent on the cooker, in order to give the public the benefit, and when warned by experience, he applied for a patent on the oven, found that one had been granted, many years ago, on a contrivance sufficiently similar to interfere, but which had just missed the practical point. It is quite probable, however, that if these cookers and ovens were offered at a price merely nominal the demand would be small. The cooks and house-keepers of the country are wedded to the habit of preparing meals in the shortest possible time, and of the galloping method of cooking which is involved in frying, roasting and boiling at a furnace heat, instead of simmering and securing the best elements of food. The people are not yet ready for improved cookers; they need education first in the science of cooking.

THE MELANCHOLY DAYS.

There are stand-points from which national pride and a conscientious sense of commercial accuracy forbid heartfelt indorsement of the poetical assertion that these are the melancholy days, the saddest of the year. In the sense of a pictorial gloom, perhaps, the statement may have a partial value. From the wailing winds, the naked woods, the meadows brown and sere, and the perished sisterhood of flowers, the somewhat pessimistic mind may, no doubt, deduce some ornamental, interest-lending hues of sombreness and dejection; but, in truth and in fact, this is purely decorative distress, and the season must be accepted in its insistent joyfulness. To a determined gloom-seeker, strange as it may appear, the month of August can muster more depressing contingents than this same much-abused November. Then cities are deserted, houses are closed and dull, endurance of the heat is the pervading occupation, birds are silent, nothing happens, and the tide of the year and of human affairs seems to have reached its most stagnant and dismal point. In November, in cheering contrast, the pulse of nature and of human nature has begun busily to throb again. Crops have been harvested and estimated, and the pride-rousing returns are all in. There is nothing permanently mournful about a wheat crop whose money value is $400,000,000, a corn crop of 2,268,202,083 bushels, a potato crop of 233,700,000 bushels, and a cotton crop of 7,500,000 bales. No deep-seated gloom should infest a nation which produces 2,500,000 bushels of clover-seed in one season, and things should certainly seldom "go contrary" in a State which boasts, in one county, a $75,000 melon crop, and still gloats over the rotund comeliness of 40,000 bushels of apples safely housed in barrels. Bushels surely should speak louder than sighs, and the jingle of the dollar help the hurt the poet feels. Even by uncommercial standards, the world, in its autumnal mood, is wrongly esteemed depressing. Nature herself seems to wane in joyful spirit. She goes, not to burial, but to restful slumber, in such gorgeous and unparalleled apparel, winding up her working days with such spectacular lavishness and grandeur. In the gorgeous raiment of her forest trees behold the well-earned regalia of fruitful lives, the brilliant gala-day dress of crowned usefulness; while in the crafty squirrel's cozy snuggery, in school-boy's bag and basket, or in grocer's box and barrel, are stored the substantial records of their industry. Read, therefore, in the waning year, even in the chill November rain, no message of dejection. To keep a work-a-day world on the track, the practical should balance the poetical, and the problems of existence are solved no more surely by the mild radiance of the summer moon than by the glow and deep breathings of a natural-gas fire. With his slippers on the fender, man snaps the fingers of his spirit at the melancholy days, and sums up anew cheerful reckonings of the season with liberal congratulations in all directions. With 20,000 miles of new railroad in the South, a wheat crop in Kansas of 34,000,000 bushels, the greatest shoe-works in the world in Maine, the largest ax factory in the country in Pennsylvania, 1,100,000 cases of canned salmon on the shelves somewhere, 1,000 cattle going in one boat to England, and 3,000 hogs per day being killed on his very threshhold—in all this surely he can find wherewith to keep the wolf of the rueful countenance from his door.

MUNICIPAL CONTROL OF GAS-WORKS.

An article in the Forum on the municipal control of gas-works contains some statements worth consideration, not only by city authorities, but by citizens generally. Without discussing the objections that may be raised to such ownership—none of which, however, are not equally applicable in case of water-works, which are owned by many cities—it must be said that in matter of cost the weight of argument is in favor of municipal control. Numerous data are given showing the actual cost of making gas. With gas coal selling at $4.25 a ton—a high estimate—gas, it is said, can be furnished to consumers at 65 cents a thousand feet, this including cost of repairs, distribution, taxes and general expenses involved. In the United States only eight cities own their gas-works. The price to consumers in these cities varies from $1.62 to 75 cents a thousand feet. Wheeling, Va., furnishes gas at the seventy-five-cent rate, owing to the fact that its plant is paid for and no profits beyond actual expenses are necessary. The average price of gas in the United States, as furnished by private enterprise, is $1.75; in England, where municipal control is the rule, it is 71 cents, and on the continent $1.20. When gas-works are in private hands, company officials must be paid high salaries, dividends must be paid to stockholders, and, as a matter of course, the highest price possible is exacted of the public to meet these demands. In Wheeling the plant was bought from a company, in 1866, for $176,000, gas then selling at $2.50 per 1,000 feet. The debt was paid from the profits. Since then the works have been rebuilt, with modern improvements, out of the profits, without a dollar of taxation, and are now worth $500,000. The price has been gradually reduced to 75 cents, but at that rate, in 1888, the department lighted, free of charge, the streets, markets, school-houses, engine-houses, City Hall, public buildings, Y. M. C. A. rooms, etc., and yet turned into the city treasury $27,166 net cash. Obviously the system of public control of this public necessity has some good features.

OUR BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS.

There is one distinctive institution which has done a great deal for many cities in the United States, including Indianapolis. We refer to the building and loan associations. Without going into details of organization, it may be stated that these associations are formed for the purpose of enabling persons of limited means and small incomes to build houses and become the owners of houses. This is accomplished by a system of small weekly payments on each share of stock, the average being fifty cents a week per share. The stockholders are mostly working men, small tradesmen, clerks, persons working on weekly wages, and young men disposed to save instead of squandering their earnings. Of these a majority are daily or weekly wage-workers. The associations combine the features of a savings bank and loan institution, each stockholder being able, under certain conditions, to borrow a sum of money proportioned to the number of shares held by him, on which he makes weekly payments covering the interest and reducing the principal until the latter is entirely repaid. In this way a person of small means is enabled to get a considerable loan on long time and easy payments, and thus become the owner of a home. These associations are great promoters of thrift and saving. They are far better than ordinary savings banks, because they furnish a strong motive for saving, and the rules make weekly payments compulsory. The result is that thousands of persons save money who would not otherwise, and the associations become a great incentive to house building and home-getting.

Many cities in the United States have profited very largely by these associations. In this city there are about one hundred of them, with nearly 20,000 stockholders. The payments, at the rate of 50 cents per share, are not less than $30,000 a week, or $1,500,000 per annum. Most of this is money that would not be saved but for these associations. The money thus deposited, increased constantly by payments of interest, constitutes a fund from which, on compliance with certain conditions, any stockholder can make a loan and build a house. Thousands of dwelling houses have been erected in this city in this way, the owners paying for them in weekly payments, running through several years. No one thing has contributed more to the healthy growth of the city than these associations. They are one of the most practical and useful features of modern civilization.

ONE of the speakers at the Spanish-American luncheon, on Friday, stated that one South American city had more daily papers than New York. Surprising as it may seem, this is a fact. The city referred to is Buenos Ayres. The Argentine Republic is the most prosperous and progressive of South American States, and Buenos Ayres, its capital, is the most prosperous city. The Argentinians are the Yankees of South America, and in their general characteristics approach the North Americans more nearly than any of the Latin-American peoples. During the last twenty-five years the population of the Argentine Republic has increased nearly twice as fast as that of the United States, and even now Buenos Ayres is growing as fast as Omaha or Denver. The people are intelligent, enterprising, progressive, and know a great deal more about the United States than we do about them. There are banks in Buenos Ayres with a larger capital than any bank in this country. The Provincial Bank has a capital of $33,000,000, and carries larger deposits than any bank in New York. Buenos Ayres has twenty-three daily papers, of which eighteen are published in Spanish, two in English, one in French, one in German, and one in Italian. The city has nine theaters, two universities, large public libraries, fine public schools, three gas companies, five street railway companies, over forty miles of sewers, hospitals, dispensaries, art schools, orphan asylums, benevolent institutions, fine public buildings lighted by electricity, parks, boulevards, asphalt pavements, and all the features of a progressive modern city. The amount expended by the government for educational purposes exceeds that of this country, and their public school system compares favorably with ours. Several Indiana ladies are teaching in the Argentine Republic, including one or two from this city.

THE corner-stone has just been laid of a soldiers' and sailors' monument in Brooklyn, which is expected to be a fine work of art. It will be in the form of an arch, eighty feet in width, seventy-one feet in height and forty-five feet deep in the clear, the arch proper having a height of forty-eight feet and a width of thirty-seven feet. It will cost $250,000. The base of the monument will be of dark polished Quincy granite, a lighter colored stone of the same quality being employed for the upper portions. The monument will contain relic rooms designed for memorial halls, which are to be finished with marble wainscoting and mosiac. The exterior design of the structure is highly elaborate, the ornamentation comprising bronze groups of heroic size, recesses for bas-reliefs and equestrian figures in nearly full relief. The New York Times says editorially: "The Brooklyn arch will be by far the most massive of the monuments of the civil war thus far erected. There is scarcely a large village that has not some memorial of those of its inhabitants who bore arms in the war, but these memorials are, as a rule, impressive only in view of their intention." The soldiers' and sailors' monument now being erected in this city, cannot be included in the list of monuments "impressive only in view of their intention." In actual cost it will fall but little below the Brooklyn arch, while in artistic conception and impressiveness it will no doubt fully equal it.

THE South American tourists were entertained in Louisville yesterday, going through the usual amount of sight-seeing, banqueting, etc. From Louisville they go to Mammoth cave. Lexington and the blue-grass farms of the vicinity will be the programme for to-morrow, and on Tuesday they will witness the manner of conducting an American election, the counting of the ballots and the scenes incident to the receipt of the election returns, in Cincinnati. Pittsburg will be next visited, the party touching at Mansfield and Washington, and an inspection of the railroad shops at Altoona will be made on the way to Philadelphia. The visitors will remain three days in the Quaker City, leaving there the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 13, touching at Harrisburg, Pa., and reaching Washington late in the afternoon of the same day. This will end the tour tendered by the government of the United States to the International American Congress, but the delegates will later visit New York city, where they will be handsomely entertained.

ONE of the employes of the Pension Office whose pension has been rerated and raised from $4.25 to $13 a month is William B. Pratt. From all accounts it is doubtful if he is entitled to any pension. His "disability" consists of a wounded finger of one hand. The board of examining surgeons who examined him in the first instance reported that they found a "small linear cicatrix on the side of the proximal phalanx of the third finger next to the middle finger of the right hand, no perceptible impairment of motion, and very little, if any, loss of strength, and in our opinion there is no pensionable disability from this cause." On this report his application was denied. Subsequently he got a pension, and has recently been rerated on the ground that "tendons in the deep-seated flexor were involved." It is probable Pratt cannot crook his finger with as much facility as he would like.

As electricity is the coming light and motor, so, probably, is aluminum the coming metal. Only the difficulty of producing it in large quantities and consequently its enormous cost, have prevented it from being applied to many practical uses. But these difficulties are being removed, and indications are that aluminum will soon be produced cheaply enough to justify its general use. Its weight is less than one-third of that of iron, and scarcely more than twice as much as that of wood, and it is, in fact, the lightest metal possessing maximum tensile strength and capable of resisting the action of the air in the presence of moisture. The general introduction of such a metal will revolutionize the mechanical world. By the way, it may not be generally known that there are extensive deposits of clay (kaolin) in Lawrence county, Indiana, which are very rich in aluminum, and which will doubtless be in great demand hereafter for manufacturing the metal.

TRUST to Yankee ingenuity for getting out of a dilemma. The Australian ballot law goes into force at the Massachusetts election on Tuesday, and the question has been as to how the illiterate man could save his vote. The voter, on going to the polls, is given a ticket containing the names of candidates of both parties, and is required to make a cross opposite the name of each one for whom he wishes to vote—all without consultation with any one. A device called the "illiterate voter's friend" is being prepared to meet the emergency. It is a sheet of card-board with little square holes in it. These holes are so cut that when the card is laid over the ticket, the edges coinciding, the openings will be opposite the names of the Democratic candidates or the Republican candidates, as the case may be. Then the illiterate voter has only to mark a cross in every hole and he has marked the party ticket. Ingenious, isn't it?

IT is expected that the Catholic hierarchy centenary celebration at Baltimore, for which preparations have been making for several months, under the general direction of Cardinal Gibbons, will be one of the most brilliant and interesting church celebrations that has ever taken place in the United States, in view of the number of prelates and others of rank and dignity in the church who will participate. Cardinal Gibbons has received acceptances of the invitation to attend from eighty bishops and others of his rank, including Cardinal Taschereau, of Canada, and archbishops and bishops from Mexico. The Most Rev. Francis Satolli, archbishop of Lepanto, will arrive in Baltimore this week as the special representative of the Pope at the celebration. The congress will open on Sunday, 10th inst., and continue several days.

CHINA is falling into the march of progress, and is to be lighted, in part at least, with electricity. The Westinghouse Electric-light Company at Pittsburg has secured the contract to erect a central station for a very large electric-light plant in Pekin, China, and the machinery has already been shipped. The city is to be lighted throughout with incandescent lamps, whose number runs into many thousands. Electric men consider this a great triumph for America, because the competition with European companies is very keen.

THE visit of the South-American delegates is likely to prove as great an education to the people of this country as to them. It has set people to thinking and talking about South America in a way that is pretty sure to lead to a better knowledge of those countries than has prevailed heretofore. Maps, globes, encyclopedias and books of travel on South America will be in demand.

THE New York Sun, commenting on the farmers' combines which are springing up throughout the country, says: "All of this goes to show that farmers are like other men. They are against all trusts, monopolies and combinations except their own. And, when all humbug is left aside, this is about the position of everybody else." That is just about the size of it.

A CORRESPONDENT of one of the city papers, writing from Brightwood, says that suburb is to have a new natural-gas well, and that "Mr. John S—— is chaperoning the enterprise." Of course, every young gas well ought to have a chaperone, but few men are qualified to act in that capacity.

NOW comes the announcement that English capitalists are negotiating for the purchase of some of the leading patent medicine concerns of this country. It is to be hoped they will not try to buy the Capitol at Washington or attempt to get a corner on Bunker Hill monument.

LONDON bankers are watching the course of politics in Virginia very closely, and are deeply interested in the result of the coming election. A few banks of that city hold about $20,000,000 of Virginia bonds.

THE man who spells Christmas with an X is beginning to break into print again. He should be promptly exterminated.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
Why is the key of the Bastile kept at Mt. Vernon? READER.
LADOGA, Ind.

It is one of several keys in existence; it was presented to Washington by Lafayette, and is therefore a proper relic to be preserved at Mt. Vernon.

BREAKFAST-TABLE CHAT.

A SECOND Christine Nilsson has appeared in the person of a young Norwegian singer of that name. She is said to possess a remarkable voice.

IT is made known that the Queen of England wears seven-and-a-half gloves; always black; with only four buttons. She uses about two dozen pairs a year, and they cost eight shillings and sixpence the pair.

IN an old cemetery at Riverhead, L. I., is seen this startling legend, cut on a stone by time well worn and with damp moss o'ergrown:

An Honest Lawyer,
SPICER B. DAYTON.
Died Feb. 22, 1772.

YOUNG SIEGFRIED WAGNER, who intends eventually to become an architect, will devote himself during the coming year to a careful study of his illustrious father's works at the Frankfort Conservatory, in order to carry on the Bayreuth performances in future.

PRESIDENT CARNOT of France is an enthusiastic Shakspearian scholar. He has piles of manuscript containing his notes on the Shakspearian plays, and he has translated into French "Macbeth," "Romeo and Juliet" and "A Winter's Tale." Carnot is not a Baconian, but is willing to acknowledge that Shakspeare was a magnificent plagiarist.

TIPPU TIB, the slave-trader, whom Stanley converted into his lieutenant, is not, says Hubert Ward, "so black as he is painted, even though he be as black as your hat." Mr. Ward has a photograph of him, which shows an inoffensive-looking, flat-nosed savage, and the humorist Bill Nye took it for "Uncle Remus," when he saw it.

MISS CAROLINE WHITING, seventy-one years of age, has been a teacher in New York city for fifty-three years. For fifty years she has not spent a day in bed; has taught always in the same school (No. 14), and worn out two school buildings; has been forty years principal, and has twenty teachers under her care, and has had no fewer than 12,000 pupils.

IN 1840 William Barger paid two mules for twenty-eight acres of land along the Missouri river, near Kansas City. The river has since changed its bed, increasing the plot to 260 acres valued at $200,000, which, the courts say, belong to Mr. Barger. Some men are born to land; some achieve land, and some have land thrust upon them. To the latter fortunate class Mr. Barger belongs.

GENERAL TOPETE, who has just been appointed Governor of Lower California, is a most distinguished soldier. He has won for himself a high name in military circles, and there is not a braver man in all of Mexico. He is about forty-five years of age. He made himself famous at the attack on the City of Mexico by the rebels, and for his bravery was promoted from colonel to general. He was the hero of the battle of Tecoac, the famous engagement between the troops of Lerdo and Diaz. Although he was repulsed, he fought with a mere handful of men until the last moment, and was the hero of the battle. He is a brave and good man, modest, quiet and retiring in disposition, beloved by the soldiers and the people.

GENERAL GRANT'S good sense was continually exhibited during his famous journey around the world. He did not profess an interest in sights and scenes unless he felt it. He did not hesitate to express his disappointment in Venice, of which he had heard so much all his life, but which he found to be "nothing but a rickety old town with a lot of open sewers running through it."

THE Queen Regent of Spain has returned to Madrid after a few weeks at San Sebastian. Before leaving she presided over the annual fete of the "bathing women," and after watching the graceful national dances which formed a chief feature of the festivity, the Queen asked one of the women, "Who has taught you to dance so well?" To which the woman, with ready wit, replied, "Dame, madame, the good God Himself. He is a good teacher. And not expensive, either."

"TAKE plenty of exercise," Mme. Patti wrote; "take it in the open air; take it alone, and breathe with the mouth closed. Live on simple food; all the fruit and rare beef you want, very little pastry, a glass of claret for dinner, coffee in moderation, but never a sip of beer, because it thickens the voice and stupefies the senses. Keep regular hours for work, meals, rest and recreation, and never under any circumstances indulge in the fashionable habit of eating late suppers. If you want to preserve the beauty of face and the priceless beauty of youth keep well, keep clean, keep erect and keep cool."

MAURICE THOMPSON, who has recently been made the literary editor of the Independent, has fought his way to literary success by sheer perseverance. The close of the civil war found him stranded high and dry in the little town of Calhoun, Ga. Finding there was nothing for him to do in that remote place, he made his way to the North and settled at Crawfordsville, Ind., where he studied law, but he did not give up his first love, literature. He wrote stories, essays, poems, criticism, everything, and, having proved that he was a capable writer, he has been rewarded by a good position.

SOME of the papers of a gushing tendency announce that Miss Huntington's marriage with Prince Hatzfeldt elevates her "to the ranks of royalty." It does nothing of the kind. Prince Hatzfeldt is not a member of any royal house. The title of prince does not have the significance in continental Europe that it has in England. Prince Bismarck is not royal; neither is Prince Schwartzenburg, nor Prince Metternich. In France there are many princes dating from the days of Napoleon. Only in England does prince indicate membership of the royal family beyond doubt, and even there the title comes by custom rather than by any formal investure.

PRINCESS SOPHIE'S trousseau cost over $6,250 for underlinen one. The chemises are made partly of German linen and partly of silk, and were richly trimmed with embroidery and lace. The handkerchiefs are of Indian silk, some white and others with a colored border, monogram, the coronet, and Latin S executed in beautiful white embroidery. Other handkerchiefs are embroidered with a colored border in tiny patterns, and trimmed with real Valenciennes lace. Others, again, have a quaint drawn-thread bordering. Her trunks have the coroneted S. on a brass shield, and the jewel case, which is covered in red morrocco leather, with the Princess's monogram in curiously wrought bronze. The interior is lined with fine ruby velvet.

MRS. CHARLES CROCKER, before the death of her husband, was one of the social leaders of San Francisco, and the large house on California street was the scene of many great entertainments. The finest of these was the reception given to General Grant on his return from his tour of the world. General Grant declared that it was one of the most magnificent he had received on his journey. The great house was built so that all the rooms on the ground floor could be thrown into one apartment. The picture gallery contained the best collection of paintings in California, with the single exception of Senator Stanford's. Few women of large wealth have given of their abundance more liberally or judiciously to the objects of charity than Mrs. Crocker, and there is hardly a local charity now in existence that is not under obligation to her for material aid.

PECCARY AND RATTLER.

Fight to a Bitter Finish Between Two Very Dissimilar Animals.

Fort Davis (Tex.) Letter.

Not long since, while in camp near the foot hills of the Diablo mountains, our Mexican scout was heard hallooing and bawling from amid the bush about a hundred yards down stream. We jumped to our feet and ran to the spot, where we found the descendant of Montezuma gazing intently on the ground and nearly frightened out of his seven senses by something he saw there. Approaching carefully, we beheld in a little clearing an immense rattlesnake coiled, with his fourteen rattles poised in the air and making music for all he was worth, to the terror and distress of the horror-stricken Mexican. The snake was one of those bloated, yellow things, a genuine Staked Plains rattler, and, from his ugly, horrid appearance, I could see the reptile was simply overloaded with poison. Such are the kind the Apache Indians seek when they want to secure materials for poisoning their arrows. I must admit that, although I have killed scores and hundreds of rattlesnakes in my time, yet this fellow looked so perfectly horrible and deadly that I hesitated to undertake the duty of destroying him.

While watching him and carefully calculating the best and safest means of putting an end to his existence, whist! rush! like a shot from a rifle out from the bushes darted a small brown object which leaped headforemost, headlong, directly upon the serpent. It was a very small peccary. Quick as the latter was, yet the rattler was quicker, and succeeded in making two strikes at the pig, burying its fangs first in the lip and next in the leg, but the peccary paid no more attention to those trifling taps than if the strokes had never been made. He caught the rattlesnake about the middle with his mouth, and placing his sharp fore hoofs on the lower coils of the shiny creature, proceeded to tear the reptile into shreds. Tortured by the enemy, who was destroying him, the head and upper portion of the snake worked like lightning, delivering stroke after stroke with such rapidity that its body looked like an elongated yellow and brown steak. Indeed, the motion was so intensely swift that I could only compare it to the piston of a locomotive when the engine is going at full speed. We had retired to the shelter of the nearest brush, where we stood observing this strange combat, without disturbing the parties most interested. The little aggressor had now stretched the links of the snake with such tension that he was unable to do more damage, and so was forced to let go in order to catch a hold further down. The moment he released his foot grip his bristly little body was enveloped by coils, and the rattler proceeded to squeeze with his lower half while the head portion of it was still going hammer and tongs as before. But the rattlesnake is no constrictor, and the contest was soon over. Making a grab at the darting fangs, the little quadruped caught the head in his mouth, and with a vicious snap completely severed that member from the body. This he proceeded to swallow with great relish. The headless coils now relaxed and fell to the ground, where they lay squirming and wriggling until the head, with its load of poison, had been disposed of. Then the little fellow grabbed the body, secured a good hold, and, with a self-satisfied grunt, ran off and disappeared in the forest.

An Agricultural Opinion.

Iowa State Register.

About 80 per cent. of all the dogs in the country should be planted deeply near some valuable grape vine. They would be far more useful there than in roaming about the country, scaring horses, frightening children and killing sheep.

The St. Louis Gathering.

Minneapolis Tribune.

The "wheat-growers' convention" represented Col. N. J. Colman and a few other gentlemen who believe as he does, and misrepresented the great body of the wheat-growers of the West.